

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-19 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

ISO-00 DRC-01 EB-11 OC-06 CCO-00 /108 W
----- 085175

R 282130Z JUN 74
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6534
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
CINCUSNAVEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 3630

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-82
TAGS: MCAP, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO RATIONALIZATION POTENTIAL STUDY

SUMMARY. MISSION HAS REVIEWED PRELIMINARY VERSIONS OF US RATIONALIZATION STUDY AND OFFERS COMMENTS THAT SHOULD, IN OUR VIEW, BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION BEFORE PRESENTING FINAL VERSION TO NATO. UPON RECEIPT OF WASHINGTON VERSION FOR NATO, MISSION WILL SUGGEST MODIFICATIONS AS APPROPRIATE TO BE MADE LOCALLY IF POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

1. MISSION HAS REVIEWED PRELIMINARY VERSIONS OF NATO RATIONALIZATION POTENTIAL STUDY IN WHICH MATRIX APPROACH HAS BEEN FURTHER DEVELOPED AND TATIONALIZATION PROPOSALS MADE IN SEVERAL AREAS. RECOGNIZING THAT FINAL VERSION FOR NATO CONSUMPTION WILL BE MODIFIED TO SOME EXTENT, MISSION HAS COMMENTS ON PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF THE PRELIMINARY STUDY. WE WILL UPDATE OUR COMMENTS UPON RECEIPT AND REVIEW OF WASHINGTON VERSION FOR NATO AND RECOMMEND MODIFICATIONS AS APPROPRIATE.

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2. GENERAL COMMENTS: A. MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE THE MRCA AND APPLY SAVINGS TO PURCHASE OF A GREATER NUMBER OF OTHER TYPES OF AIRCRAFT HAS FALLEN OUT OF FINAL NATO VERSION. WE FEEL THAT PROPOSALS OF THIS TYPE

THAT INVOLVE ALREADY PROGRAMMED DEFENSE EFFORTS AND GREAT NATIONAL COMMITMENTS SHOULD NOT BE ADVANCED AT THIS STAGE. INSTEAD, WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE NOW ON MORE READILY ACHIEVABLE PROPOSALS. INsofar AS POSSIBLE, WE SHOULD ALSO GIVE ADVANCE THOUGHT ON RATIONALIZATION OF FUTURE NATO PROCUREMENT EFFORTS IN THE CONTEXT OF A MORE INTEGRATED DEFENSE. IN THIS REGARD, WE NOT THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER, IN HIS STATEMENT PRESENTED FOR THE RECORD AT THE JUNE 1974 MINISTERIAL MEETING, PROPOSED THAT SACEUR DEVELOP AN OVERALL PLAN THAT INTEGRATES THE EXISTING FORCES IN THE CENTRAL REGION IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY, AND THAT ESTABLISHES SENSIBLE, PRACTICAL PRIORITIES FOR NATIONAL EFFORTS. SUCH A PLAN WOULD PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR FIRING THE PIECES TOGETHER IN A FUTURE RATIONALIZATION MATRIX.

B. ALTHOUGH OFFERING PROMISE FOR FUTURE RATIONALIZATION, MISSION FEELS THAT COOPERATIVE PROCUREMENT OF TACTICAL AIRCRAFT AS ADVOCATED BY STUDY MAY BE SOMEWHAT AMBITIOUS. OUR VIEW IS THAT NATIONS CONCERNED (BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS) ARE NOT READY TO DROP THE CAPABILITY TO DEFEND OWN AIRSPACE IN FAVOR OF CONCENTRATING ON ANOTHER ROLE, SUCH AS GROUND SUPPORT.

C. THE STUDY CALLS FOR THE US TO PROVIDE 100 AWAC'S FOR NATO USE IN PEACETIME AND AN ADDITIONAL 25 DURING WARTIME. OUR INFORMATION IS THAT THE USAF IS CURRENTLY PLANNING TO ACQUIRE A TOTAL OF 34 AWAC'S. THE AUTHORS OF THE STUDY APPARENTLY ENVISAGE A LARGER BUT SUCH THAT THE US WOULD NOT HAVE TO COMMIT ALL AWAC'S TO NATO IN THE FACE OF A POTENTIAL THREAT TO NORTH AMERICA. IN ANY CASE, THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF AN AREA WHERE DATA MUST BE CAREFULLY COORDINATED IN WASHINGTON; WE SEE A POSSIBLE CONFLICT BETWEEN THIS RATIONALIZATION PROPOSAL AND US EFFORTS TO INTEREST NATO NATIONS IN A COOPERATIVE AWAC'S BUT.

D. THE STUDY SUGGESTS THAT THE FRG, GREEK AND TURKISH NAVIES SHOULD CANCEL REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS FOR AGING DESTROYERS AND, INSTEAD, DEDICATE THE FUNDS TO FORCES MORE SUITED FOR DEFENSE OF THE BALTIC AND AEGEAN, SUCH AS PTFG'S AND AIRCRAFT. NATO 1975-1980 FORCE PROPOSALS CALL FOR MODERNIZATION AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS FOR THE FRG, GREEK AND TURKISH DESTROYERS. THESE PROPOSALS ARE GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH COUNTRY PLANS AND RECOGNIZE THE VERY LIMITED DESTROYER ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR USE IN PROTECTION
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FO SHIPPING AND RELATED TASKS, SUCH AS ASW. THE PROPOSALS ALSO CALL FOR FULL TIME COMMITMENT OF A GREEK AND TURKISH DESTROYER TYPE SHIP TO THE STANDING NAVAL FORCE MEDITERRANEAN WHEN FORMED. THE NATO RATIONALIZATION STUDY ALSO DISCUSSED THE ALTERNATIVE OF EMPLOYING THESE DESTROYERS IN THE ATLANTIC OR MEDITERRANEAN AREAS WHERE THEY CAN HELP FILL THE NEED FOR MORE ESCORT FORCES. IN OUR VIEW, WE SHOULD NOT ADVOCATE CANCELLATION OF DESTROYER REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS BUT, INSTEAD, PLACE EMPHASIS ON BETTER EMPLOYMENT OF DESTROYER ASSETS, BOTH PRESENT AND FUTURE. THIS WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S MINISTERIAL STATEMENT IN WHICH HE SAID: "AT PRESENT, WE ARE TOO NARROWLY LIMITING OUR NATO COMMITTED ASSETS TO A SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHICAL SECTOR OF

THE EUROPEAN OCEAN AREAS. AND SOME NATIONS WITH MARITIME ASSETS ARE CONVERTING THEIR FORCES BY DE FACTO ACTIONS TO COASTAL PATROL NAVIES WHEN THEY REALLY POSSESS AN OPEN SEA CAPABILITY WHOSE FULL DETERRENT VALUE IS BEING LOST. IN OUR VIEW, NATO MUST BE PREPARED TO USE NAVAL ASSETS MUCH MORE FLEXIBLY."

E. CONCERNING AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT WHERE SAVINGS COULD BE APPLIED, MISSION FEELS THAT WE SHOULD STATE THAT PROPOSALS MAKE USE OF "BASIC ISSUES" STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS PREPARED BY NATO.

F. THE SECTION OF THE STUDY DEALING WITH COOPERATIVE PROCUREMENT OF TACTICAL AIRCRAFT IS NOT CURRENT AND SHOULD BE REVISED TO REFLECT THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE F-104 REPLACEMENT PROGRAM. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS APPLY:

(1) FOUR COUNTRIES, BELGIUM, DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS, AND NORWAY, HAVE AGREED TO CONSULT ON PURCHASE OF A COMMON MULTI-ROLE REPLACEMENT FOR THEIR F-104G'S (APPROXIMATELY 350 AIRCRAFT FIRST ROUND 150 MORE LATER).

(2) THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT BEING INVESTIGATED WILL HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF CLOSE AIR SUPPORT INTERDICTION, RECONNAISSANCE, SHORT-RANGE STRIKE (WITHOUT SOPHISTICATED PENETRATION AIDS) AND AIR SUPERIORITY OVER THE BATTLEFIELD. THE NETHERLANDS AND PROBABLY ALL FOUR COUNTRIES WILL GIVE UP ALL-WEATHER INTERCEPTION AND DEEP STRIKE CAPABILITIES.

(3) THE AIRCRAFT WILL COST BETWEEN FOUR TO SIX MILLION DOLLARS - ABOUT DOUBLE THE COST OF THE JAGUAR BUT ONE HALF THAT OF THE F-15 OR MRCA. SOME COUNTRIES MAY REPLACE ON A LESS THAN ONE-FOR-ONE BASIS.

(4) THE COUNTRIES WOULD BE ABLE TO GENERATE CONSIDERABLE
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SAVINGS COMPARED TO WHAT IT WOULD HAVE COST TO BUT EITHER OR BOTH THE F-15 AND MRCA TO PERFORM THEIR AWX AND DEEP STRIKE TASKS. UNFORTUNATELY THE TOTAL AMOUNT REQUIRED TO BUY THE MORE SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT WAS NEVER PROGRAMMED AND THE SAVINGS ARE THEREFORE NOT AVAILABLE TO APPLY TO OTHER FORCE IMPROVEMENTS.

G. THE HOST NATION SUPPORT SECTIONS OF THE STUDY CALL FOR MANY THOUSANDS OF HOST NATION CIVILIANS TO REPLACE MORE EXPENSIVE US MILITARY PERSONNEL IN CARRYING OUT A VARIETY OF SUPPORT TASKS. ALTHOUGH WE MAY HAVE TO WAIT FOR NATIONS CONCERNED TO ANALYZE THIS ASPECT, THE NUMBER AND DEPENDABILITY OF EUROPEAN CIVILIANS WILL BE INFLUENCED BY:

(1) THE EXTENSIVE USE OF GUEST WORKERS.

(2) THE MILITARY RESERVE COMMITMENT OF MANY CIVILIANS WHICH MAY LEAD TO DOUBLE-COUNTING IN ANALYZING THE MANPOWER BASE.

H. CONCERNING HOST NATION SUPPORT OF COMMUNICATIONS, THE STUDY SUGGESTS REPLACEMENT OF 13,100 US TROOPS BY CIVILIANS WHO WOULD BE UNDER US SUPERVISION. MISSION FEELING IS THAT POSSIBLE 30 TO 40 PERCENT OF THE US PERSONNEL MIGHT HAVE TO BE RETAINED AT LEAST INITIALLY TO PERFORM US COMMUNICATIONS FUNCTIONS.

I. THE CONSOLIDATION OF COMMUNICATIONS SECTION INDI-

CATES THAT USE OF CDS IN CONUS COULD ELIMINATE SOME INSAL-
LATION OF NICS FACILITIES. THIS PREMISE WILL NOT BE PROVEN
UNTIL NICSMA PROCURES SPECIFIC EQUIPMENTS AND THE DCS IS KNOWN.

J. SEVERAL INSTANCES OF INCONSISTENT DATA APPEAR IN
THE STUDY. FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE CHANGE OF FORCE MIX AND
THE AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT SECTIONS, PROCUREMENT AND OPERATING
COSTS OF THE SAME EQUIPMENT VARY CONSIDERABLY AMONG DIFFERENT
NATIONS.
RUMSFELD.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO03630
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS 12-31-82
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740687/abbryvwq.tel
Line Count: 173
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <13-Sep-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO RATIONALIZATION POTENTIAL STUDY
TAGS: MCAP, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
CINCUSNAVEUR
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005